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The Standard Oil Company never carried this contract through, but sent it back to its manager with instructions to end the arrangement and refund to the shippers the amount of these wrongful rebates.

As a fact, the rebates were collected between March 30 and April 30, 1885, on the oil of Mr. George Rice, a competitor of the Standard. The total amount of these rebates was \$340. On October 17, 1885, Mr. Rice filed an application to have the receiver of the railway report whether he was being discriminated against. Twelve days later the Standard agent at Marietta received a check from the company for \$340, which was duly paid over to Mr. Rice. The reader will judge whether it was a twinge of corporation conscience, or the pending investigation, which resulted in the disgorging of the "wrongful rebates."

The limits of a review do not permit the pointing out of other inaccuracies in statement, of which the reviewer has noted not a few. While the value of the book is thereby seriously impaired, the author is nevertheless to be commended for his effort to correlate the history of the Standard Oil Company with the railway history of which it is in one aspect an incident.

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*The Life of William Ewart Gladstone.* By JOHN MORLEY. The Macmillan Co., New York and London, 1903. — Three volumes, 661, 666, 641 pp.

That the qualifications of the author for the treatment of this subject are in many respects of the highest order goes without saying. His mastery of English prose style, his broadly critical temper, the learning and insight which he has shown in his earlier biographical and critical studies, adequately vouch for the literary success of the work. Another group of qualifications of special value have their origin in the intimate acquaintance which existed between the author and Mr. Gladstone during the later years of that statesman's life, and in the prominent part which Mr. Morley himself has played in the events of the last quarter of a century. Finally, Mr. Morley was made Gladstone's literary executor, and by virtue of that position had access to the great mass of his private papers, a collection which in volume far exceeds what is common even among statesmen. Many of Gladstone's correspondents, also, placed letters which they had received from him in the hands of the author. Not the least interesting chapter in

the work is that on *The Octagon*, the room at Hawarden where Gladstone stored the letters and papers of a lifetime. From the sketch there given an idea may be gained of his many-sided interests, as well as of the manuscript material from which in part the biography has been written.

But, as the author remarks, the memorials which Mr. Gladstone has left, whether they be in written or printed form, are to a considerable extent impersonal—the outgrowth of the statesman's public career, the expression of his views on large questions of civil or ecclesiastical policy, or of historical or literary criticism. In his correspondence, even from his early years, Gladstone was a reasoner on somewhat lofty and abstract themes, while in middle and later life to that characteristic was added his absorption in public business. During the most of his life he kept a diary, but its entries, though multitudinous, are brief. So far as its contents are revealed in this work, its chief value is to be found in the light which it throws on his relations with his cabinets. Comparatively few memorials of a genuine childhood and youth appear to have survived. We get in this work a somewhat distant and indistinct view of his experiences at Eton and Oxford. Only glimpses of his family life are given. Of the human side of Gladstone, apart from that which was revealed by his public career, we have the most satisfying account in the chapter on the struggle to retain the estate of Hawarden, and in the narrative of some of the later conversations between the author and the aged statesman, when the two were seeking health and recreation on the continent. It was largely through the acquaintance with business which came as the result of his labors to save Hawarden from ruin, that Mr. Gladstone gained the experience that fitted him for his later work as finance minister.

It is, then, to Mr. Gladstone's life on its public side that the author is necessarily led to devote his chief attention. This had two leading aspects, the one a result of the interest which he took in ecclesiastical questions, the other of his great activities in the secular realm. Of these the former gave to Mr. Gladstone's life an almost unique character. It was the outgrowth of his deeply religious nature, of his early training at Oxford and elsewhere, and of his natural love for the problems of church history and government. It was the source whence proceeded a large part of his literary activity. It furnished a chief basis of his early Toryism. It gave him his intense interest in the tractarian controversy, in the question of church disestablishment, in the Vatican Council, in the relations between Western Christendom and the churches of the East. It made him unsympathetic with the prog-

ress of natural science and with the modern critical spirit. When he left Oxford, it would have been his choice to enter the church. It was in obedience to his father's desire that he chose a parliamentary and official career. In his later years he wrote thus about the character of his mind and about his early preferences:

There was a singular slowness in the development of my mind, so far as regarded its opening to the ordinary aptitudes of the man of the world. . . . In truth the dominant tendencies of my mind were those of a recluse, and I might, in most respects with ease, have accommodated myself to the education of the cloister. All the mental apparatus requisite to constitute the "public man" had to be purchased by a slow experience and inserted piecemeal into the composition of my character.

To the activities of Mr. Gladstone as the most prominent layman of the English church the author devotes some attention. Sufficient reference is made to them to show that they occupied a very important place in his career as a whole. But no attempt is made to write his biography from that standpoint. On the contrary, those interests are kept strictly in the background. The public career of Mr. Gladstone in its relation to secular affairs is made specifically the subject of the work. Even with that limitation, accompanied with reasonable condensation and with the exclusion of most unrelated topics, Mr. Morley has found that the theme of Gladstone, the statesman, demands for its treatment nearly two thousand large octavo pages. It necessitates a review of more than sixty years of English history, and that during a period of great events and changes. It raises the question — always a difficult one — to what extent should the general history of the time be utilized in explanation of the ideas and policy of one who has borne a leading part in its events? A further question of proportion relates to the use of extracts from the voluminous letters and papers at hand, either as a substitute for narrative or to enforce and clarify the author's statements. In both these particulars Mr. Morley's chief difficulties have arisen from the abundance of his materials. Notwithstanding the bulk of the work, all readers must admit that the author has drawn upon the general resources of history only to the extent that was necessary to explain Mr. Gladstone's career. While much documentary evidence is introduced, it is not excessive and it does not clog the main current of the narrative. There is no padding, and little waste material in the work. The treatment is ample and full, but it is not overweighted with detail. Not only is the reader's attention sustained throughout, but it steadily grows as the subject unfolds through the

second and third volumes, and as we approach the time when the author took his place in Parliament and in the cabinet by the side of the great Liberal chief. It reaches a climax in the chapter on the Breach with Mr. Parnell, followed as it was by the wreck of the Home Rule cause and the retirement of Mr. Gladstone from public life.

In the third volume, which deals with events subsequent to 1880, Mr. Morley was specially confronted with another difficulty. How should he impartially treat events of so recent a date, struggles in which he, as well as Mr. Gladstone, had prominently shared, and which had aroused such intense feeling? For this period the book becomes an original historical source in a sense which is not true of the other volumes. Through it all flows a dignified and sustained narrative, from which it must be said that undue partisan reflections are excluded. Gladstone and his great achievements in Parliament and outside are of course the central theme, but not to the disparagement of others or of the opinions which they held. In the third volume, as in its two predecessors, Mr. Morley has fairly maintained the attitude with which he set out, that of intelligent and sympathetic treatment of the great subject which had come to his hand, without undue bias and certainly without "importunate advocacy or tedious assentation."

In the very brief space which remains it is possible to call attention to only a few of the features in the treatment of Gladstone's political career which seem to the reviewer to be especially valuable and suggestive. The account of the relations between the young Gladstone and Sir Robert Peel are of great interest, showing the promptness with which the abilities of the new member were perceived, and how through his service in the Board of Trade he was first brought into close contact with the intricacies of budget legislation. The history of the long process by which, as a member of the group of Peelites, Gladstone held aloof from both parties, but finally, in 1859, abandoned the Tories and joined the Liberals, is detailed at length. But it is on the whole a disappointing record — except in its result — and one which certainly does not arouse the enthusiasm of either author or reader.

During that period, however, Gladstone's interest in foreign affairs was first awakened. This came in 1850 through his study of conditions in the Kingdom of Naples. It was further extended by the Crimean War, and passed through an interesting phase when, in 1858, he went as special commissioner to the Ionian Islands. The Italian war of 1860 found him an ardent supporter of the cause of nationali-

ties, to which he ever remained true. While his views on finance were being liberalized by the adoption of the principles of free trade, hatred of oppression and the conviction that the rules of public and private morality were fundamentally the same had already made him the foe of dynastic combinations which were not also rooted in the consent of the popular will. As early as 1850 he wrote:

Ireland, Ireland! that cloud in the west, that coming storm, the minister of God's retribution upon cruel and inveterate and but half-atoned injustice! Ireland forces upon us those great social and great religious questions.

These volumes set forth in detail the proof of the statement — already more than once made — that it was the ardent religious and imaginative element in Gladstone's nature, which came to him through his Highland-Scotch lineage, that in the end swept away his Oxford Toryism and made him a tribune, not merely of the English and Irish people, but of all struggling nationalities.

Full and adequate treatment is given to Mr. Gladstone's financial measures, to his acts for the extension of the suffrage and to his legislation relating to Ireland. The well known story is told with such additions as are furnished by the statesman's private papers. His relations with the Queen are traced through in some detail. A matter of still greater interest to the student of English institutions is the light which is thrown on the relations between Mr. Gladstone as premier and the members of his cabinets. An entire chapter in the second volume is devoted to this subject, while extended references to it occur in several other places. It appears that Mr. Gladstone, instead of playing the dictator, treated his colleagues with the greatest consideration, seeking in all ways to harmonize their differences and to secure their cordial and active support. His large experience and capacity for work of course gave to his opinions great weight, but his leadership was always the legitimate result of intellectual and moral ascendancy.

Taken as a whole, this is undoubtedly one of the noblest biographies in the language, a worthy treatment of a great and inspiring theme.

HERBERT L. OSGOOD.

*The Tariff Problem.* By W. J. ASHLEY. London, P. S. King & Son, 1903. — vi, 210 pp.

Though a large part of this volume is devoted to the task of showing that *something* must be done for British industry, the author presents